

Amazing!

Did you know that used oil from a single oil change can pollute up to a million gallons of fresh water? Or that a pint of oil dumped in a storm drain can create a one-acre oil slick on open water? Most people don't realize that dumping oil and other pollutants into a gutter, street or storm drain is a major cause of pollution in creeks and the Bay — and it is illegal!

For information on how to prevent stormwater pollution in your area, call the Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, (800) 794-2482.

If you see evidence of illegal dumping in or near storm drains or creeks, call



Campbell	911
Cupertino	(408) 777-3269
Los Altos	(415) 948-8223
Los Altos Hills	(415) 941-7222
Los Gatos	911
Milpitas	911
Monte Sereno	911
Mountain View	(415) 903-6378
Palo Alto	(415) 329-2413
San Jose	(408) 945-3000
Santa Clara	(408) 984-3080
Saratoga	911
Sunnyvale	(408) 730-7270
Sunnyvale after hours	911
Unincorporated Santa Clara County	(408) 299-6930

- **Toxic Tip Line**
Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office
Environmental Protection Unit
(408) 299-8477

- **Waste Alert**
California Environmental Protection Agency
(800) 69-TOXIC

To help resolve an ongoing pollution problem, call

- Water District Ombudsperson
(408) 268-8663

To find out about recycling in your community, call

- Your garbage contractor or city recycling office
- Santa Clara County Recycling Hotline
(800) 533-8414

To find out about disposal of hazardous household products from your home or small business, call

- Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program
(408) 299-7300

For carpooling information, call

- Rides for Bay Area Commuters
(800) 755-7665

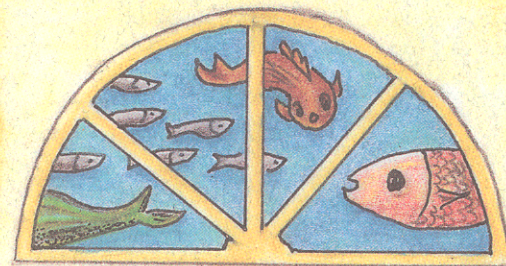
To control stormwater pollution, thirteen South Bay cities, Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District have joined together to form the Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. The Program works to get the pollution prevention message out to residents and businesses in our county.



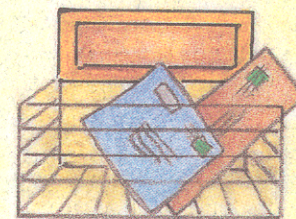
Santa Clara Valley
Nonpoint Source
Pollution Control Program

To arrange for copies of this brochure in alternative formats, call (800) 794-2482 (voice) and/or (800) 735-2929 (TTY-California Relay)

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The Bay Begins at Your Front Door!

How You Can Prevent
Pollution of Our
Creeks and Bay

The Bay Is Closer Than You Think.

Help prevent stormwater pollution in your creeks and the Bay by following these suggestions:

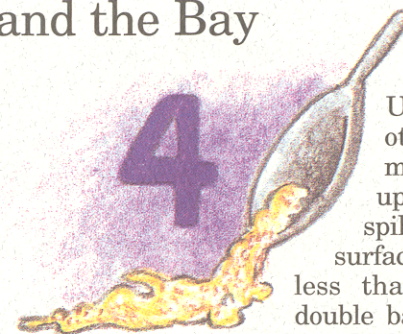
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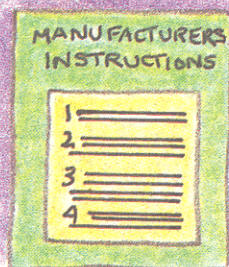
Avoid using toxic products. Look for non-toxic alternatives. If you do use toxics, use small quantities and buy only what you need.

Home Maintenance & Repair

4



Use cat litter or other absorbent material to clean up toxic material spills from paved surfaces. For spills of less than one gallon, double bag and dispose of used absorbent in the garbage. Contact your household hazardous waste program for advice on disposing absorbents from larger spills.



2

Read the label! Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and storage of all toxic products, including paints, cleaners, and solvents.

3



Use up toxic products. If you need to throw them away, take them to your local household hazardous waste drop-off site.

Be sure that your cleaning company disposes wastewater in a utility sink, toilet or sanitary sewer cleanout — not the storm drain.

5

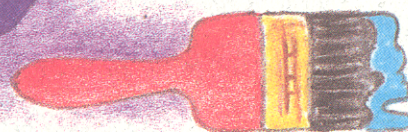


6



When draining your pool or spa, pump water into a sanitary sewer cleanout, never into a street or storm drain. Pool water often contains copper, which is toxic to aquatic life.

7



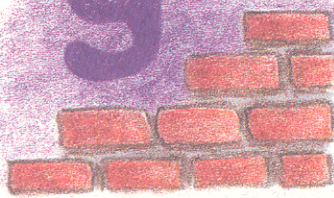
Rinse latex paint brushes in the sink. Filter and reuse oil-based paint thinners. Dispose of leftover and waste paint products at your household hazardous waste program. Put empty, dry paint cans in the garbage.

8



Recycle or reuse whenever possible. Keep all waste out of storm drains. Keep garbage cans tightly covered to prevent pollution caused by foraging animals.

9



When working with concrete, cement or mortar, keep materials from blowing or flowing to a driveway, street, gutter or storm drain. Rinse equipment onto an unpaved surface. When excavating or landscaping, protect dirt piles from washing or blowing into the street or storm drain.

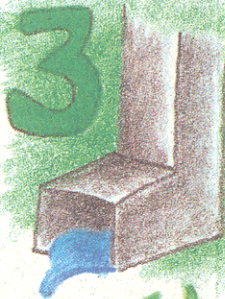
Lawn

1



Use garden chemicals according to label instructions — and never when rain is forecast within 24 hours. Dispose of unwanted products through your household hazardous waste program. Adopt organic gardening methods when possible.

3



Divert rain spouts and garden hoses from paved surfaces onto grass or landscaping. Water only your lawn and garden — not the sidewalk.

4



Pick up pet wastes and put them in the garbage.



2

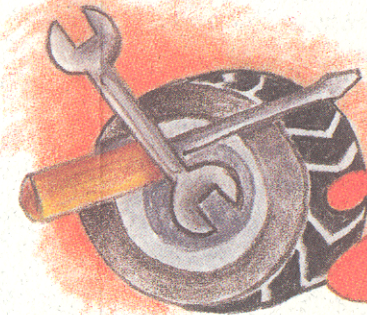
Use a broom or rake — not a hose — to clean up lawn and garden clippings. Start a compost pile. Use local curbside yard waste recycling programs. Don't leave yard waste in the gutter. Sweep up residue after pickup and dispose in compost or trash — not into the storm drain.

Automotive

1



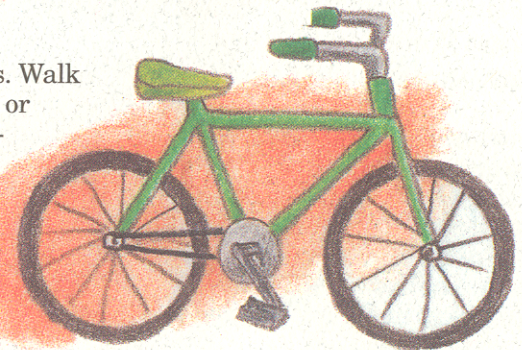
Recycle used motor oil and antifreeze. Call your city or local garbage company for information about curbside oil collection and certified recycling centers.



2

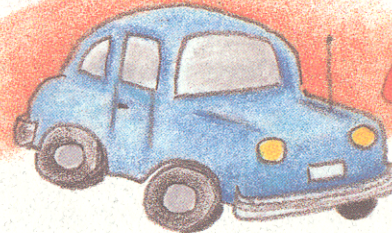
Have your car inspected and maintained regularly, and repair all leaks promptly.

3



Cars pollute the air and the water! Drive less. Walk or ride a bike, take public transportation, or carpool with a friend. Consolidate trips. Report polluting vehicles' license numbers by calling 1-800-EXHAUST.

4



Wash cars on an unpaved surface where dirty water won't flow to a driveway, street, gutter or storm drain. Empty your bucket of soapy water into a sink or toilet. Better yet, use a commercial car wash. Even biodegradable soaps are toxic to wildlife.

You can also help control stormwater pollution by supporting city and county efforts to clean streets and expand recycling options.

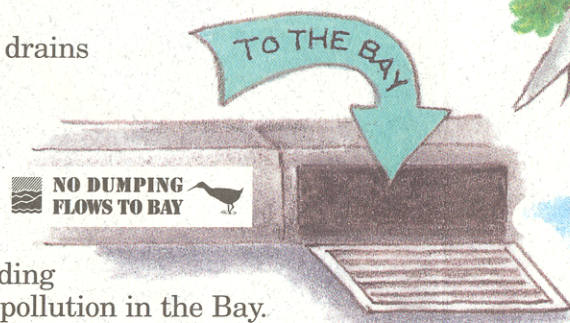
Since most people don't know that they may be adding to stormwater pollution in our creeks and Bay, help spread the word! Get your neighbors and co-workers involved.

Together, we can keep our creeks and Bay clean and healthy for fish, wildlife and ourselves.

*You may live
miles from
San Francisco Bay -
and still be polluting
its waters.*

Day after day, motor oil, paint products, pet wastes and garden chemicals are washed into neighborhood gutters and storm drains by rain and other runoff.

Because storm drains flow directly to creeks and the Bay without treatment, stormwater pollution has become the leading cause of water pollution in the Bay.

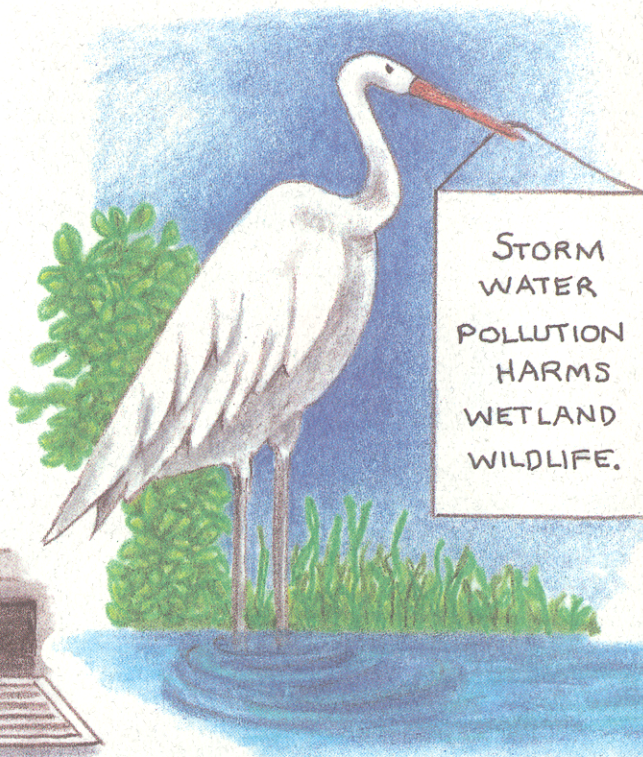


Never pour anything into a gutter or storm drain. Storm drains flow directly to local creeks... which carry pollution to San Francisco Bay.

*Where does
stormwater
pollution
come from?*



- Motor oil and auto fluids which leak from cars onto roads, highways and parking lots
- Dirt, leaves, and lawn clippings in the gutter
- Litter and grime that collects on parking lots and sidewalks
- Antifreeze, oil, paint or household cleaners dumped in the gutter
- Bare soil that erodes or blows into the street
- Weed killers, fertilizers and pesticides that are washed off lawns
- Smog and air pollution carried by rain into storm drains and creeks
- Pet waste left on lawns, streets, in the gutter or on sidewalks
- Soap and dirt from washing your car in the driveway or street



Rain and water from our lawns and gardens washes these pollutants off streets, sidewalks, roofs, driveways, parking lots and other surfaces, and carries them into the storm drain system.

Storm drains are separate from the sanitary sewer system! Unlike the water that goes down the toilet or sink in your home, water — and pollution — that enters the storm drain system flows directly to our creeks and Bay...with no treatment!

Stormwater pollution is toxic to fish and other wildlife. It threatens all of us who use and enjoy our most valuable natural resource — water.

*You
are the
solution
to water
pollution.*

You can help prevent stormwater pollution by making small changes in your daily routine.

Reduce your use of toxic products in your home and garden, and dispose of them carefully. Keep your car in tune and repair leaks promptly. Keep yard waste, dirt, detergent, paint, trash and pet waste out of your neighborhood streets and storm drains. Remember — only rain down a storm drain!

See the inside of this brochure for more tips on preventing stormwater pollution. For a brochure on more ways to reduce pollution from household activities, call (800) 794-2482.